

SEVEN NEW SPECIES OF WEST INDIAN CHRYSOMELIDAE

(COLEOPTERA)

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This paper consists of the descriptions of seven new species of Chrysomelidae from the West Indies, four of which were collected by Fernando de Zayas. Mr. Zayas has been most actively collecting insects in Cuba for many years.

***Metachroma elachistum*, new species**

(Figure 6)

About 2.5 mm in length, broadly oblong-oval, shining, deep reddish brown, the pronotum moderately densely and distinctly punctate, the elytral striate punctures distinct throughout.

Head shining brown, covered with punctures, finer and not so dense over upper half, denser and coarser in lower half, the groove about inner margin of eyes curving down and across and not quite meeting across the front. Antennae long and slender, extending well below humeri, the outer joints longer and darker brown. Prothorax smoothly convex except for a slight semicircular depression over the occiput; surface very shiny, strongly and densely punctate, deep reddish brown. Scutellum shining brown. Elytra with humeral prominences, short intra-humeral sulcus and a small basal callosity near scutellum; striate punctures enlarged in the depression below callosity, dense and distinct otherwise to the apex. Body beneath and legs reddish or yellowish brown; middle and hind tibiae emarginate near apex. Length 2.3 to 2.8 mm.; width 2.4 to 2.6 mm.

Types.—Holotype male and 3 paratypes, U.S.N.M. Type No. 64670; 1 paratype in collection of F. de Zayas. All collected by him along the shore near Havana, Cuba, in September 1951.

Remarks.—The structure of the aedeagus in the single male collected is most unusual.

***Metachroma cavicolle*, new species**

(Figure 5)

About 6 mm. in length, elongate oblong, alutaceous, only feebly shining, the head and prothorax densely and coarsely punctate, prothorax with lateral depression on each side; the elytra with striate punctures closely set and a lateral fold in female (no males seen); entirely dirty yellowish brown.

Head densely and coarsely punctate, alutaceous, a median vertical line ending in a rounded median depression, below this on either side a group of large punctures, these punctures near the end of the groove about the inner margin of eye; head yellowish brown with the jaws deeper brown or piecous. Antennae not extending much below humeri, 2nd and 3rd joints about equal in length, 4th and remaining joints longer and gradually wider; entirely yellowish brown. Prothorax with an anterior and a basal ridge on either side, the resulting depression between being almost a transverse depression, the lateral margin sinuate with a large basal and apical tooth; surface alutaceous, densely and strongly punctured, and entirely

dirty yellowish brown. Scutellum punctate, alutaceous and yellowish brown. Elytra flattish, with a slight basal callosity and short intrahumeral sulcus; along side from humerus to apex a distinct lateral fold, possibly only in the female, no male examined; elytra narrowed towards the apex; elytral striae made up of dense strong punctures, and in the intervals, scattered fine punctures, yellowish brown. Body beneath shining yellowish brown, the coxae a little darker, femora robust, anterior ones strongly toothed, middle and posterior tibiae emarginate near apex, claws with short basal tooth. Length 6 to 6.2 mm.; width 2.7 mm.

Types.—Holotype female, U.S.N.M. Type No. 64671; one paratype in collection of F. de Zayas. All collected by F. de Zayas in Sierra Cajalbana, Pinar del Rio Province, Cuba, June 1956.

Remarks.—The two distinguishing characters of this species are the ridges and depressions on the prothorax and the lateral fold on the elytra. Possibly this last character is more developed in the females; no males are known. This species belongs to that group of *Metachroma* with the elongate and apically narrowed elytra. There are two other species similarly shaped, *M. oteroi* Blake from near Havana, Cuba, in which species the front femora are also toothed, and *M. gracile* Blake also from near Havana, in which both anterior and posterior femora are toothed. *M. gracile* also has a lateral fold or costa, not so distinct, on the elytra. In neither species nor in any other I have seen of that genus is the surface of the thorax so uneven.

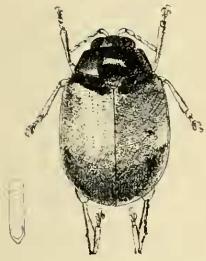
Phaedon cubensis, new species

(Figure 7)

About 6.5 mm. in length, broadly ovate, moderately convex, the elytra more or less distinctly striate punctate, the punctation very fine, reddish brown, with dark piceous scutellum, antennae and legs, except the basal part of femora which are pale brown.

Head with interocular space more than half width of head, occiput with a fine median line connecting with a V-line running down on either side to antennal sockets; finely punctate, especially near eyes, reddish brown with deeper brown mouthparts, Antennae scarcely reaching beyond humeri, first joint stout, joints two to five short with the second longest, and almost as broad as long but only half as broad as joints six to eleven, which are longer and broader and all deep piceous, the last six joints heavily pubescent. Prothorax over twice as broad as long at base, narrowed anteriorly, smoothly convex, with fine, moderately dense punctation, shining reddish brown. Scutellum deep brown or piceous. Elytra smoothly convex, with fine punctation tending to be striate, a row of punctures depressed in some specimens and extending from humerus to apex and producing a rounded fold near margin. Body beneath shining, reddish brown, not at all piceous, femora in basal half pale, in apical half becoming piceous, tibiae and tarsi piceous and sometimes with a bluish lustre. Length 6.2 to 6.8 mm.; width 4.5 to 4.6 mm.

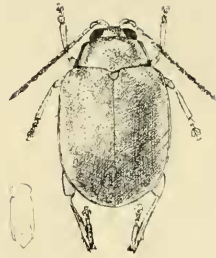
Types.—Holotype male, and 2 paratypes, U.S.N.M. Type No. 64676; one paratype in collection of F. de Zayas. All collected at Ciudad Mar, Santiago, Oriente Province, Cuba, in July 1945 by F. de Zayas.



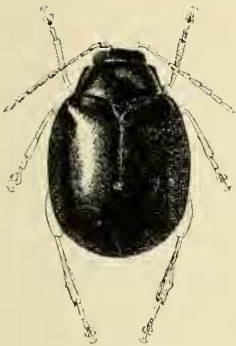
1. *Heikerlingella fusca*



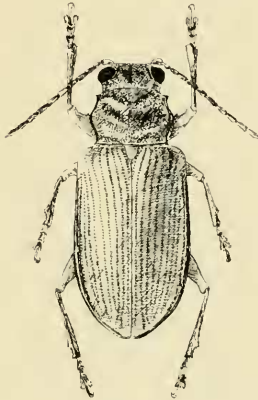
2. *Heikerlingella minima* (Guffion)?



3. *Heikerlingella dominicae*



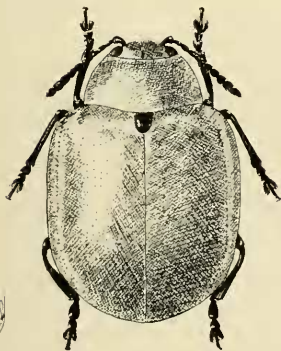
4. *Heikerlingella guadeloupenis*



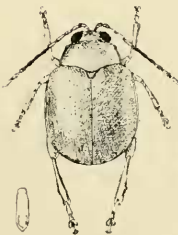
5. *Metachiana covicolle*



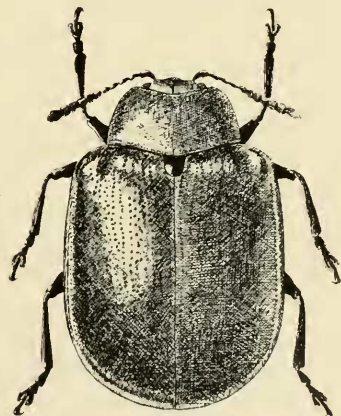
6. *Metachromaelochistum*



7. *Phaedon cubensis*



8. *Heikerlingella Krugi* (Weise)



9. *Phaedon zayusi*

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Remarks.—This species closely resembles *Phaedon barberi* Blake from Puerto Rico in being reddish brown above and in having similar sculpture. But the Puerto Rican species has a shorter prothorax and the body beneath is piceous, not pale brown.

***Phaedon zayasi*, new species**

About 7.5 mm. in length, broadly ovate, not very shiny, the prothorax with scattered groups of punctures, the elytra more coarsely punctate with a tendency to striation, a depressed row of punctures from humerus to apex forming a roll near margin; deep reddish brown, almost chocolate brown, the scutellum, legs, undersurface and antennae a shining black with a faint greenish or bronzy lustre.

Head finely and rather densely punctate, a median line down occiput to join with a V-shaped line running to base of antennal sockets, entirely dark reddish brown. Antennae with the five basal joints dark with a faint greenish lustre, 2nd joint long, 3rd to 5th gradually diminishing, joints 6 to 11 gradually increasing in breadth and pubescence. Prothorax more than twice as broad as long at base, more widely curved behind eyes than in *Phaedon cubensis*; surface a little uneven due to scattered groups of punctures, a line of punctures along basal margin; entirely deep reddish brown. Scutellum black with faint greenish lustre. Elytra moderately convex, with strong humeral prominences, and rather coarse punctures from humerus to apex forming a roll near margin; surface rather dull and deep reddish brown, almost chocolate colored. Body beneath and legs entirely dark, shining with a faint greenish or bronzy lustre. Length 7.5 mm.; width 5.5 mm.

Type.—Holotype female in Zayas collection, collected at Gran Piedra, Caney, Oriente Province, Cuba, in January 1954 by F. de Zayas and Pastor Alayo.

Remarks.—This is larger than *P. cubensis* and darker in coloring, the prothorax is differently shaped, not being so closely wrapped about the eyes anteriorly, and the punctation is coarser and deeper. The basal joints of the antennae are not so short and wide as in *P. cubensis*.

Genus ***Heikertingerella*** Csiki

Homophyla Harold, Deut. Ent. Zeit., xxi, 1877, p. 138; *Euplectroscelis* Jacoby, Biol. Centr. Amer. Coleoptera, 1885, p. 392; *Heikertingerella* Csiki, Coleopterorum Catalogus, vol. 25, 1940, p. 350.

The species of *Heikertingerella* are all very much alike in outer appearance, being tiny roundish brown beetles. The male aedeagus in these, however, is quite distinctive, and that coupled with the slight differences in shape, some being more elongate, others broadly oval, constitutes the best character in determining the species. From the West Indies at least two species have been described, *H. unicolor* (Jacoby) from St. Vincent and Grenada, and *H. krugi* (Weise) from Puerto Rico. Suffrian has described from Cuba under *Haltica minima* what may very well be another species. There are at least two species of *Heikertingerella* from Cuba, one of which is represented by a single male taken at light on "shipboard" at "Cuba." The other species, of which we have more material, is probably identical with specimens taken in Haiti by W. A. Hoffmann on *Tecoma stans*. This second

species corresponds pretty well with Suffrian's description of *minima*. In the National Museum there are also specimens of a larger species from Dominica, which is quite distinct from the rest, and another dark piceous one from Guadeloupe, still larger. One can only deplore the bad taste that led to attaching the monstrous name *Heikertingerella* to these tiny beetles.

***Heikertingerella minima* (Suffrian) ?**

(Figure 2)

Haltica minima Suffrian, Archiv. f. Naturg., vol. 34, pt. 1, 1868, p. 184.

About 2.5 mm. in length, ovate, shining, the head and pronotum finely and densely punctate, the elytra less densely punctate: yellow brown, the last five or six antennal joints deeper in color, sometimes the head, prothorax and base of elytra and hind femora deeper brown to piceous.

Head with interocular space about half its width, eyes large, a groove running from a fovea near inner margin of eye down to antennal socket on each side, no trace of frontal tubercles, carina between antennal sockets narrow and running down the front; head usually pale but in some darker specimens deep brown to piceous above. Antennae with the two basal joints robust, 3rd short and thin, 4th and 5th joints gradually lengthening, usually the five basal joints pale, the remainder dark. Prothorax nearly twice as wide as long at base, narrowed straightly to apical angles which are broadly truncate, disk somewhat convex, basal margin sinuate over scutellum, surface shining, densely and distinctly punctate; usually yellow-brown, but in darker specimens, deep brown to piceous. Scutellum reddish brown. Elytra broad and convex, with distinct humeral umbone, shiny and rather sparsely punctate, the punctures becoming fine and indistinct after the middle; yellowish brown except in some darker specimens which are deep brown to piceous near the base. Body beneath usually entirely pale, but in dark specimens deep brown, the legs also in this case being darker. Length 2.2 to 3mm.; width 1.5 to 1.8 mm.

Distribution.—**Cuba**: Buenas Aires, Las Villas Province, in June 1953, by F. de Zayas, Playa Ingles, Las Villas Province, in May 1954, F. de Zayas; Sierra Rangel, A. R. Otero and S. C. Bruner in April 1953. **Haiti**: Rio Froide, 1300 ft., on *Tecoma stans*, W. A. Hoffman, Oct. 14, 1924; St. Roe, Nov. 1923; Port-au-Prince, G. N. Wolcott, May 1925.

Remarks.—There are also two specimens taken by W. A. Hoffman on Feb. 12, 1925 at Cour Bizoton, Haiti, that I hesitate to put with this species, as they are smaller, rounder, and of a uniform deep brown color. Unfortunately both are females.

***Heikertingerella dominicae*, new species**

(Figure 3)

Between 2.5 and 3 mm. in length, ovate, shining, the pronotum finely and densely punctate, the elytra finely and sparsely and after the middle indistinctly punctate, yellow-brown with the last six or seven antennal joints and hind tarsal joints a little darker.

Head with interocular space about half its width, smooth, shiny and very indistinctly punctate over occiput, a groove running down from a fovea on inner

margin of eye to antennal socket, no trace of frontal tubercles, carina between antennal sockets well developed and running down lower front. Antennae as in the other species, the basal four joints paler than the rest. Prothorax nearly twice as wide as long at base, narrowed in a straight line anteriorly with broad truncate front angles, disk convex, shiny, densely and distinctly punctate, entirely yellow-brown. Scutellum brown. Elytra shiny, very finely punctate, the punctures fading away before the middle, pale yellow brown. Body beneath yellow-brown, in one of the two specimens collected by Fennah, the posterior legs deeper brown. Length 2.5 to 3 mm.; width 1.7 to 2 mm.

Types.—Holotype male, U.S.N.M. Type No. 64672; one paratype, female, from the Greenhill Estate, 800 ft., Dominica, B.W.I., collected July 3-12, 1941, by R. G. Fennah. Two other specimens were collected by H. W. Foote, Yale Expedition, in June and July 1913, both females.

Remarks.—This species is larger and rounder than the Cuban beetles and has a most distinctive aedeagus. The two specimens collected by Foote are more distinctly punctate.

Heikertingerella fusca, new species

(Figure 1)

About 2.5 mm. in length, broadly ovate, shining, the pronotum rather densely and very finely punctate, the elytra less densely and more distinctly punctate, yellow-brown with a deeper reddish brown head, prothorax and base and apex of elytra.

Head with interocular space barely half width of head, smoothly rounded over occiput, eyes large and with a groove of punctures from inner margin extending to antennal sockets, no trace of frontal tubercles, interantennal area flat, but below, a short narrow keel down lower front; lower front somewhat declivate, upper head deep reddish brown, lower front paler. Antennae present only in part, the two basal joints robust and wider than the following three, which gradually increase in length from the 3rd which is shortest. Prothorax considerably wider at base, narrowed straightly to apical angles which are oblique, basal margin sinuate over scutellum, disk moderately convex, shining, very finely and densely punctate, reddish brown. Scutellum shining, deep reddish brown. Elytra broad and convex, with humeral umbone, surface shining, finely, and not very densely punctate, the punctures having a faintly striate arrangement; reddish brown over base and below the middle, the rest yellow brown. Body beneath entirely yellow brown, anterior coxal cavities open, hind legs with femora much enlarged, and tibiae becoming wider towards apex, grooved and with an outer tooth and emargination before apex, and another short tooth at apex, first tarsal joint very long and narrow. Length 2.4 mm.; width 1.6 mm.

Type.—Holotype male, U.S.N.M. Type No. 64673, taken at light on shipboard, at Cuba.

Remarks.—This is a slightly larger and rounder species than *H. minima* (Suffrian) and with darker coloring, especially of the apex of the elytra. The aedeagus, too, is different.

Heikertingerella guadeloupensis, new species

(Figure 4)

About 3 mm. in length, ovate, shining, the elytra distinctly punctate, deep brown, almost piceous, the antennae and legs pale yellow brown, the undersurface deeper yellow brown.

Head with interocular space less than half width of head, eyes large, occiput smooth and shining, a fovea on each side near margin of eyes, frontal tubercles faintly marked, a wide rounded carina between antennal sockets running down lower front. Antennae not reaching much below humeri, the two basal joints swollen, third about length of second but much narrower, pale yellow brown, deepening in color in distal joints. Prothorax shining piceous, very finely punctate, convex with the sides narrowed straightly to rounded apical angles, basal margin sinuate over scutellum. Scutellum shining piceous. Elytra convex, the humeral umbones prominent, shining piceous, the apex a little paler, possibly due to the light shining through; punctures dense and distinct, with a tendency to being striate. Body beneath and hind femora shining deep yellowish brown, the rest of the legs paler yellow brown. Length 3 mm.; width 2 mm.

Type.—Holotype female, U.S.N.M. Type No. 64674, collected by A. Busck on Guadeloupe, at 3000 ft. altitude, West Indies, July 30.

Remarks.—The much deeper brown, almost piceous, coloring marks this species as unlike any of the rest from the West Indies yet described. It is also larger.

PTINUS VARIEGATUS ROSSI, NEW TO THE UNITED STATES

(COLEOPTERA: PTINIDAE)

A species of *Ptinus* not recorded heretofore from the United States was collected recently in Vienna, Virginia. Previously collected specimens from the U.S.A., Europe, and North Africa were then found in the U. S. National Museum, but all were misidentified or unidentified. Accurate identification was finally obtained from R. D. Pope, of the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology in England. The species is *Ptinus variegatus* Rossi, 1794 (Mantissa Insectorum, Vol. 1, p. 20), previously known from Europe and northern Africa. It is possible that this species was reported as *Ptinus fur* (L.) and *Ptinus bimaculatus* Melsh. in lists of beetles of North America, for I have seen specimens from Raleigh, N. C., so identified. (However, *fur* and *bimaculatus* should not be stricken from the North Carolina list; I have seen specimens of them collected in the State.) A survey of a few collections in the States involved produced 13 specimens from the following localities, the year in parenthesis being the earliest capture at that locality: North Carolina, Raleigh (1905) and Southern Pines (1905); South Carolina, Greenville (1927) and Florence (1929); Virginia, Vienna (1958). It may be that *variegatus* is native to this